

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2004
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2003
BAN ON MINING ON ASBESTOS
VINAY KUMAR SORAKE

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the mining of Asbestos is presently banned in the country on health grounds;
- (b) if so, whether many countries have lifted similar bans after recent research reports that Asbestos did not affect the health of the miners;
- (c) if so, whether the Asbestos mine holders especially from the State of Rajasthan have requested the Government to lift the ban in order to create more employment opportunities;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (e) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS)

- (a) Grant of fresh mining leases and renewal of existing mining leases for asbestos are presently banned in India on health grounds.
- (b) No, the Central Government are not aware of some countries having lifted ban on asbestos mining.
- (c) to (e) Asbestos mines owners of Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh have represented before the Central Government to allow grant of fresh/ renewal of asbestos mining leases in the country. Government have not lifted ban on grant of fresh/renewal of mining leases for asbestos in the country.